

Observing the 1980s

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Observing the 1980s

- Ethical and methodological issues - what we did
- Narratives of the ordinary and everyday - what emerged
 - the glimpses of Thatcherism



Observing the 1980s

**SOCIETY FAMILY ROYAL
WEDDING MEDIA LIVE
AID THATCHER PEOPLE
FALKLANDS MEMORIES
UNIONS UNEMPLOYMENT
MINERS STRIKE THE CITY
IMAGES VOICES CULTURE
LIFE**

4,000+ pages



23 Respondents from the
Mass Observation Project (1981-1990)

90 hours



26 Voices from the
British Library Oral History Collection



38 Leaflets pamphlets & fliers from the
University of Sussex
Documents Collection




"1984: Thatcher's Britain"
Moodle Open Educational Resource
(OER)

1,000 pages

OBSERVING THE 80s blogs.sussex.ac.uk/observingthe80s


#observing80s
youtube.com/user/observingthe1980s
soundcloud.com/observing80s
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Observing the 1980s



Time and Place: 1984: Thatcher's Britain (Observing the 1980s)

Spring teaching 12-13 Undergraduate

View as...  [Dashboard](#)

Introduction

[Module Documentation and Admin](#)

[Pod Casts](#)

[Archives](#)

Lecture 1: Introductions - Thatcher and Thatcherism

Lecture 2: Britain and the world

Seminar 1: Thatcherism and the Eighties

Lecture 3: Britain and War i) The Falklands War

Lecture 4: Britain and War ii) Northern Ireland

Seminar 2 : Memoirs and Memories of the Falklands War.

Lecture 5: The Unions

Lecture 6: Unemployment.

Seminar 3: News Media and the Miners Strike

Lecture 7: Immigration, Ethnicity, Riots

Lecture 8: Feminism and Family Values

Seminar 4: Activism and Identity

Lecture 9: Youth and cultures of resistance

Lecture 10: Labour's Challenge



Seminar 5: Blair and New Labour

Lecture 11: Conclusions - From Thatcher to Blair


Lecture 12 Methodologies

Seminar 6: Sources workshop

Introduction



Tutor Contact Details



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4/ B 1426.

Buying clothes For me this is a chore which is put off as long as possible and is then got over as quickly as possible. I usually go out knowing what I want and get very rapidly disgruntled when I can't get it. Certainly cost, comfort, ease of maintenance i.e. Machine Washable, come before fashion which I think is more for women & youngsters. I suppose I am what could be called a conservative dresser. It is more important for clothes to be functional than in high fashion. As I find it difficult enough buying my clothes for myself I don't even attempt to buy clothes for other people. I would even prefer my wife to take someone else with her when buying her own clothes rather than have her rely on my approval. When it comes to colours I seem to stick to Blues & Greys, the 'safe' colours I suppose, and I must admit to preferring a white shirt although pastel shades are OK. I do not like striped shirts however on me or anyone else. I will buy all my clothes locally if I can get what I want but my wife always goes to Reading if she wants a special dress. We also buy quite a lot of our clothes from a Mail Order Catalogue. This applies more to my wife than myself as I find I can't get trousers for instance. They only have certain sizes and don't usually come long enough with my waist size. This is a problem in the local shops I also of course. The most expensive item in my wardrobe is my latest suit and this was a modest £70. As this is shows, I don't make many expensive purchases, so I can't make expensive mistakes. However I did comment that I wasn't over impressed with a coat my wife had purchased some time ago for what was then an expensive £30 and she wouldn't wear it again and actually gave it away so this can be counted as my mistake. I don't make anything other than noncommittal comments these days. Regarding "Designer Labels" I find it sad to find parents indulging very young children with these items. Often this is done without thought of any possible consequences and can be the cause of much heart-ache with the creation of a further have & have not

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Winter Directive 1984.

1. I have 150 known relatives who have offspring and cousins, brothers, aunts, uncles and sisters that I know to nothing about.

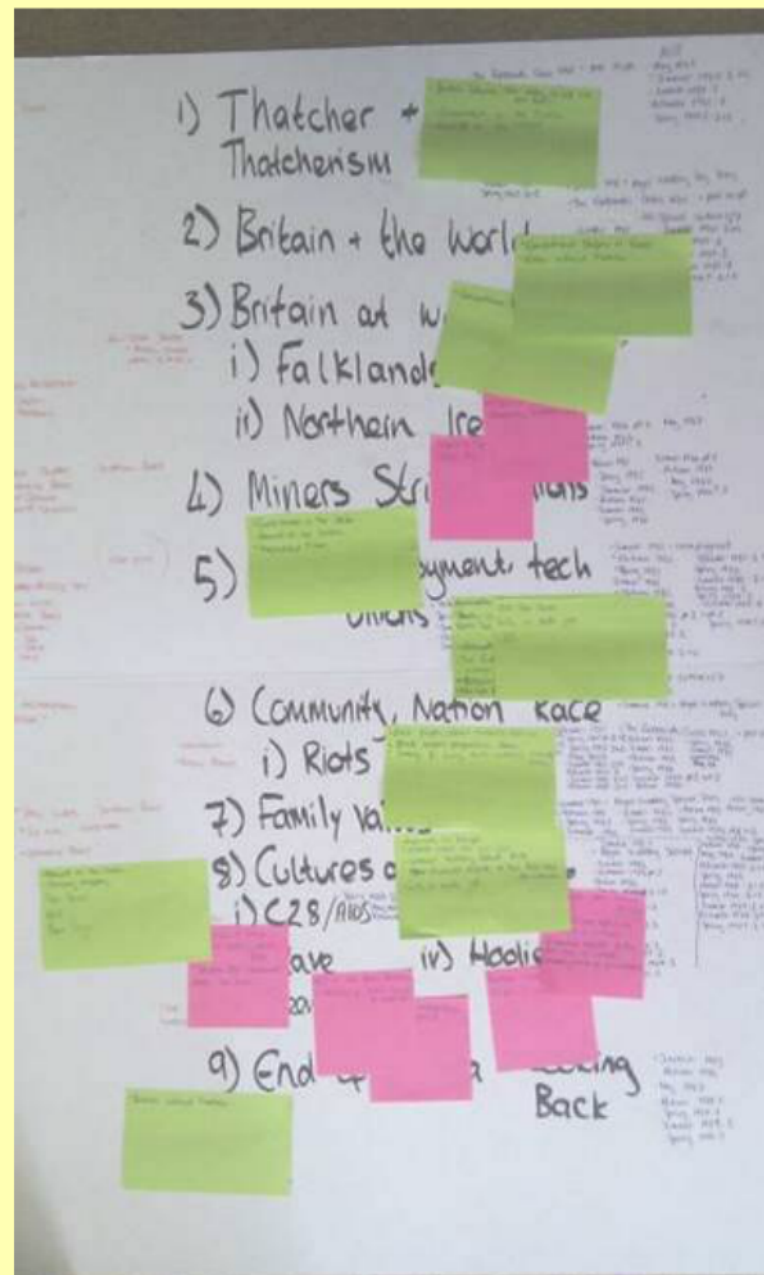
We have contact with a few in America owing to visits and the odd card or letter. Those over here, we see a few times a year. We don't see them on a regular basis as everybody works or is in engaged in something that cannot be left for a long time e.g. doing cows.

We visit the B's at "Clare" Randalstown most often. Mrs. B senior is my mother's sister. She has five children who are all grown up and (one) are a similar age to my brother and myself. George, the eldest has a wife from Kilmarnock and they have three children. Margaret is married to an Englishman and she lives in Middleborough. Joan B, Margaret's sister is married to a man from Laven who works in a bank. Joan works in the bank, too but not at the same place. Doneen and Fred, their brother and sister live at home. Fred does not go farther than Aghgill very often and he keeps race horses. Doneen works in Belfast and has her own car. My uncle Andy, Mrs. B's brother visits every Saturday. He works for his brother James and the formerly for my

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B1426 1986 Autumn Events

9. T.S.B. share launch

What a hypocrite I am. Off I went with my privilege order form when I am convinced that to sell off the T.S.B. like B.T. and British Gas etc. is wrong.

This one really did catch the imagination of Joe Public though and money was there for the making. One acquaintance of mine making £375 on the first day which is helping to pay for his daughter's wedding. As usual the little man was at a disadvantage. How many of us could sell at 9.00 a.m. on that first day even if we wanted to. The post very often doesn't arrive until you have left for work. So once again money going to money.

R470 1990 Spring Retrospective

I
SPD
II

26/7/90 ♂ R470

The Eighties

To me the 80s was the decade of the grandchildren '84 '88 + '89. It was also the decade of redundancy '83 and '86. The first time I thought I would not work again, but I found out that if you are not choosy and prepared to work, there is always a job available. At the moment it seems possible that it is on the cards again. In the 80s I became a capitalist ^{with NFFC shares} and used some of my unearned rewards to become a home owner. I also bought my first ever brand new car.

W633 1987 Summer Holidays

W633

diary..4

As P and her husband leave she gives me her office pools money for the next fortnight as she is on holiday (she is deputy editor of the paper for which I am a sub editor and feature writer) plus a jar of blackcurrant jelly and two plants for the flower garden.


They leave on the ten minute walk home and we hustle Elizabeth upstairs as it is hours past her bedtime. I begin to clear and wash up while my husband goes off to check 'his' kiosk. BT employees can take responsibility for checking a particular phonebox each day as part of the fight against vandalism and to report faults.

He returns in time to help with most of the washing up and putting away and we get to bed ourselves just on midnight.

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OBSERVING THE 80S

HOMEBLOGBACKGROUND



Observing the 1980s brings together voices from the [Mass Observation Project](#) & [British Library Oral History Collections](#) alongside ephemera from the [University of Sussex Library](#).


The material offers a unique and inspiring insight into the lives and opinions of British people from a range of social classes and regions, combined with publications dealing with contemporary issues such as the Poll Tax, AIDS and the Falklands Conflict during the 1980s.

[More about the project](#)

RESOURCES

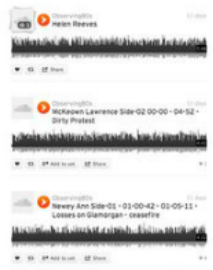
MASS OBSERVATION

Correspondence written in the 1980s by contributors to the archive

[Explore](#)


THE BRITISH LIBRARY

Recordings from the Oral History Collections

[Explore](#)


University of Sussex Library

Publications chosen for their relevance to the themes of Observing the 1980s

[Explore](#)


INFOGRAPHICS

Infographics created for the project

[Explore](#)


OER

Moodle teaching site using project resources

[Explore](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook timeline and Youtube playlist

[Explore](#)

<http://blogs.sussex.ac.uk/observingthe80s/>

Find out more

#observing80s

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